

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UN COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

1. SUMMARY: UN COMMISSION OPENED ITS FOURTH SESSION ON MAY 16 BY ELECTING GEOFFREY BRUCE (CANADA) CHAIRMAN. IT ALSO HEARD WELCOMING REMARKS FROM AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND A STATEMENT PRESENTED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS KLAUS SAHLGREN ON BEHALF OF THE SYG. DISCUSSION OF DOCUMENT E/C.10/35, ACTIVITIES OF CENTER ON TNCS, WAS ALSO BEGUN. END SUMMARY.

2. GHANA NOMINATED BRUCE OF CANADA AS CHAIRMAN SUPPORTED BY INDIA AND GERMAN DR. BRUCE WAS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEUR POSTPONED UNTIL FOLLOWING DAY.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER ON TNCS SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE SYG. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANS-NATIONALS IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT AND OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN ASSISTING TNCS TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES MORE FULLY WITH DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CODE OF CONDUCT EXERCISE AND ALSO SAID THAT CORRUPT PRACTICES GROUP HAD PROGRESSED TO A POINT AT WHICH A PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE WAS ENVISAGED. HE PRAISED THE WORK OF THE CENTER, AND IN PARTICULAR THE INFORMATION SYSTEM PROJECT.

4. DISCUSSION OF ITEM 4, REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF CENTER

FOR TNCS, BEGAN IN LOW-KEY FASHION. US DEL SUGGESTED THAT CENTER PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF ITS PROJECTED BUDGETARY NEEDS TO CARRY OUT PROGRAMS ENVISAGED IN E/C.10/35. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CHAPTER 7 OF THE REPORT DEALING WITH RESEARCH HAD INADEQUATELY COVERED THE ROLE OF STATE OWNED TNCS.

5. MEXICAN DEL SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE INPUT OF VIEWS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN EXPERT ADVISERS GROUP. HE ALSO PRAISED THE EXTENSIVE LIST OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND SUGGESTED THAT FINANCE, COMMERCE, AND INVESTMENT BE APPROACHED IN A COMPREHENSIVE WAY WITHIN THIS CONTEXT. INDIAN DEL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF CENTER'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM. TNCS IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT (E/C.10/38) CONTAINED INACCURACIES, PARTICULARLY IN APPENDICES, BUT WAS ON THE WHOLE A GOOD DOCUMENT. FRENCH DEL SPOKE TO CONCERNS OF MANY COUNTRIES IN QUESTIONING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE CENTER'S WORK. FRG DEL DEVOTED HIMSELF LARGELY TO THE NEED FOR CENTER TO BASE ITS WORK ON SPECIFIC NEEDS AND QUERIES OF COUNTRIES RATHER THAN THE "AMBITIOUS" PROGRAM IT HAD OUTLINED FOR ITSELF. HATIAN DEL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE CENTER'S WORK AND REITERATED THAT THE CENTER'S INFORMATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE COMPRISED OF FACTUALLY CORRECT INFORMATION. WOLF

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